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The Spectator

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Volume LXVI
Number VIII

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Navigating the AI dilemma: ChatGPT and its impact on Hamilton College academics

by Hadley Noonan ’25 and Grace Policelli ’24
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS

The new calculator. A better spell checker. The death of artistic individuality. Conversations surrounding artificial intelligence (AI) and ChatGPT have taken the national stage, as evidenced by the recent WGA strike and Biden’s new Executive Order on safe AI. Hamilton College now finds itself on the precipice of a technological and social tipping point. At a college so focused on quality writing, it is vital to understand where Hamilton’s students and faculty stand on AI.

Currently at Hamilton, there is no college-wide regulation on the use of AI and computer programs like ChatGPT. Academic departments have not taken a united stance for or against ChatGPT, leaving students and professors to wonder to what extent it can be used, what qualifies as cheating and whether or not others are using AI to assist with their work.

The Spectator spoke with professors and students about their thoughts on AI and its place at Hamilton. In sharing their honest opinions, many members of the community requested that if quoted, they would remain anonymous. Their requests for anonymity reflect well the apprehension toward the free discourse needed to reach a consensus on a matter which, for now, may lead to retribution.

Much of the uncertainty comes from professors’ resistance to AI. One anonymous student ’26 explained: “I have professors on both sides of the spectrum. One professor says if we touch [ChatGPT], they’ll report it to the Honor Court. Another says...we are encouraged to use it; we just need to cite it.” Some students feel that this disconnect between professors creates a moral gray area around academic honesty. *The Spectator* asked a second anonymous student ’26 if they still use ChatGPT for assignments where it is not allowed, and they admitted: “I’ll use it to help brainstorm. Everyone does—at least my friends do.”

Photo Courtesy of Canva

AI created this image with the prompt “Students working on laptops outside at liberal arts college.”

One anonymous STEM student ’24 shared an anecdote from a computer science course. “A bunch of kids used AI one night for our homework. The professor gave an in-class quiz the next day on the same set of code, and those same people couldn’t do it.” The possibility of more in-person assessments in light of new AI technologies remains feasible. “I think all STEM classes should just give more in-person closed note exams,” he continued. That student still uses ChatGPT as a tool when coding outside of the classroom. “I do feel like it’s an easier Google search. If I really can’t figure out a piece of code, I can look it up and use it as a reference. Maybe that’s not good, but I don’t use it to do my work for me,” the student said. “Using it just to do an assignment for you is really bad. It’s lazy.”

A history concentrator ’24 had a similar perspective. When asked if using Chat GPT is cheating, he responded “if you are literally copying it, that’s unethical.” On the topic of Writing Intensive courses, he talked about some of the harms of ChatGPT and said, “On the one hand professors might have to take into account that people are using it. But the class itself was designed to help you develop as a writer so you’re just sabotaging yourself.”

Stella O’Brien ’24 sees artificial intelligence as just another tool. When asked if she used Chat GPT, she said, “Yeah, all the time. I don’t think it counts as cheating when I use it to edit my grammar. It’s the same as Grammarly or spellcheck or any of those things.”

Assistant Professor of Government Ashley Gorham focuses on “hacktivism” and artificial intelligence in her research. In her classes, her assignments consist of revising a policy memo written by ChatGPT, then editing the AI version to become more personal and later reflecting on what the platform missed or misconstrued. Gorham said

that she wants to help students understand the "hallucinations of ChatGPT," or how to catch when the software confidently asserts things that are wrong.

Gorham also thinks more philosophically about the issues ChatGPT is posing within academia. In her opinion, ChatGPT forces us to question our academic motives. For example, Gorham asked, "Why do students take classes? Why do they write papers? Do they want to know something, or do they want to appear to know it?" She believes it raises important questions for professors as well, like "Why do we evaluate students the way we do? What are we trying to accomplish?" Although each professor might have their own responses to these questions, it seems that some Hamilton students are fine with only appearing to know what they are writing about. Another anonymous student '24 explained, "I use ChatGPT on assignments that, to be honest, I wouldn't have spent much time on regardless."

"Yeah, [I use Chat GPT] all the time. I don't think it counts as cheating when I use it to edit my grammar. It is the same as Grammarly or spellcheck or any of those things."
- Stella O'Brien '24

Committed to its open curriculum, Hamilton requires that its students take three Writing Intensive courses while enrolled. According to the College's website, Writing Intensive courses are important because they help students "learn to write in a clear, organized, and effective way." AI's ability to write clear and unique academic papers for students questions Hamilton's claim to produce excellent and developed writers.

Miriam Lerner '24 is a Writing Center tutor. Lerner said that, "Each person provides a different manner of writing, both through their smaller writing choices and through their ideas, both which are, in part, formed from their lived experiences (including what they read, their conversations, etc)." Lerner expressed doubt about AI's ability to fully reproduce human writing: "Though AI can generate sentences that follow correct sentence structure and generate informed ideas, its writing lacks the humanity which makes writing truly meaningful."

"Why do students take classes? Why do they write papers? Do they want to know something, or do they want to appear to know it?"
- Professor Ashley Gorham

Rachel Budd '25 started working at the Writing Center this past fall. She observes that the use of ChatGPT is becoming more prevalent on Hamilton's campus, but, as a tutor, it does not affect her job. "Something written by AI versus something written by a parent or a friend is the same to me. It's not up to us to decide whether or not the work submitted is their own."

While it is not the job of Writing Center tutors to decide if a student's work is their own, the Hamilton College Honor Code states that academic dishonesty includes "the submission of work as one's own that has been prepared by another person." Whether Artifical Intelligence qualifies as 'another person' is unclear under Hamilton's policy.

Since the invention of the internet, a variety of new technologies have emerged—both as helpful contextual tools and as a means of helping idle students do less work. Wikipedia, Google Translate, Grammarly, SparkNotes and Chegg, among others, have aided students for years. Another anonymous student '25 admitted: "I've been using Shmoop and Google Translate since I was in middle school. To me, ChatGPT is just another tool to help me stay on top of all the work I have at Hamilton."

One student '25 reports that they and their roommates found ChatGPT so helpful that they purchased ChatGPT Plus for $20 a month. "We use it like crazy," they said. "It doesn't write our essays for us, but it's really good for reorganizing notes into outlines. The paid version can search the Internet, so it's helpful for research." This paid version of ChatGPT has more advanced features, and some students find it more accurate. But, at $240 a year, this could contribute to economic inequality within higher education.

"I've been using Shmoop and Google Translate since I was in middle school. To me, ChatGPT is just another tool to help me stay on top of all the work I have at Hamilton."
- anonymous student '25

ChatGPT may further serve as an economic barrier because many students use Chat GPT to secure jobs. One anoynmous student '25 "uses it for cover letter templates and stuff," hinting at ChatGPT's professional utility. People in the workforce also rely on artificial intelligence to succeed in their respective jobs. Recent graduate Camille Donaghey '23 currently works as a sales associate at Tomo. Donaghey said she uses ChatGPT everyday while researching different residential areas throughout the nation. Donaghey explained that, "I use ChatGPT to get a lot of information quickly about an area…It's quicker and easier to get all the info from one platform rather than Googling different towns and trying to figure out which is better. Obviously you have to take what it's saying with a grain of salt, but it has been really helpful for me so far."

PHOTO COURTESY OF REDBUBBLE

Hamilton administration and students have been-wrestling with the future role that ChatGPT may play inside the classroom as students prepare for potential careers which could involve the use of AI.

Although there are discrepancies in how Hamilton students use ChatGPT, almost every student interviewed had a personal understanding of its limits. Of the eleven students interviewed, none said that they would use ChatGPT to write an entire assignment with the intention to turn it in, regardless of their professor's policies. Even off the record, *The Spectator* was hard-pressed to find any student who would admit that they had copied more than a few sentences from ChatGPT. With the varying opinions of Hamilton students and professors, perhaps this self-regulated use of AI is as close to a Hamilton policy as the College will get—for now.

***ChatGPT wrote the title of this article**.*

November 9, 2023

Experts from Washington's Bipartisan Policy Center discuss climate change and U.S. energy

by Sarafina Madden '26
STAFF WRITER

On the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 1, Common Ground presented a talk on "Remaking the U.S. Energy System," facilitating a discussion about climate change and the pathway to a cleaner energy future. In their unique partnership with Washington, D.C.'s Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), Common Ground held the conversation between progressive Jason Grumet, leader of the BPC, and George David Banks, a Republican political analyst and BPC Senior Fellow. Lesly Janatarasami, managing director of the BPC's Energy Program, moderated the discussion.

To open the night, Lesly posed a simple question: "What is the goal of the U.S. energy system?" Banks responded by positioning himself as a "Republican who cares a lot about climate" and posited that he views the central question of the climate and energy debate as: "How can we leverage U.S. energy policy to produce the results that we need?"

Grumet opened by sharing his gratitude for the spirit of Common Ground, stating that "it is the imagination of this collaboration that is as important as any of the precise insights we are going to share with you," establishing a wider framework for a detail oriented discussion. Grumet then made a fundamental point about the Inflation Reduction Act, a Budget Reconciliation bill recently signed by President Biden that commits $369 billion to Energy Security and Climate Change Programs, and embraces "an energy strategy that's based on innovation and investment."

PHOTO COURTESY OF @JASONGRUMET ON "X"

Jason Grumet is the CEO of American Clean Power. Grumet formerly served as President of the Bipartisan Policy Center, a think tank in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Wednesday's event was the third Common Ground of the semester. Common Ground defines itself as a "Cross-boundary dialogue on hot-button political issues" that brings leaders and experts to the Hamilton campus.

Grumet asserted that this bill actually aligns with Republican ideology, but that Republicans dispute the bill because of the way in which it was passed. What this point proves is that "process matters" according to Grumet. This bill has enraged Republicans so much that they are taking active steps to repeal it.

In considering the reconstruction of the US energy system, Banks emphasized the importance of supply chain security, asserting that "the supply chain security agenda is going to drive further decarbonization." Banks also cautioned against the possibility of foreign nations, such as China, pursuing "predatory trade systems."

Subverting typical understandings of the energy industry, Grumet asserted: "2/3rds of renewable power being built in the US right now is being built by companies that also have fossil fuel assets" and that a clean energy industry is "going to be an energy industry that looks a lot like the current energy system." Industries employing fossil fuels are actually key players in decarbonization.

On the question of regulation, Banks argued that the "regulatory approach is a bad one." Grumet agreed, explaining that "there is so much political pressure to whittle them down that they come out and endorse what's already happening."

Later, the speakers reflected on the larger geopolitical landscape's relation to this issue. Comparing the U.S. to China, Grumet insisted that the U.S. will "never be able to compete with them in the ways they are spending and modernizing." He continued, "Democracy is beautiful but it is complicated and clumsy." Banks commented on international efforts to employ nuclear power: "Nuclear will certainly play a role outside the U.S.—it is going to be Chinese and Russian built." Following a student question regarding China's monopoly on minerals, Grumet clarified that this is not the result of unique geology in China, but rather China's control of the processing of minerals. According to Banks, "the tensions with China are not going away any time soon…that's going to drive innovation in these technologies." Harkening back to the Age of Exploration, Banks argued that this competition will stimulate innovation. "I am a firm believer in Western Entrepreneurship" he stated.

Grumet closed by declaring: "the future is very bright and every day is a crisis," emphasizing that the speed and scale at which the US must make this energy transition is unprecedented. Banks insisted that "we have to think big and we need to be policy disruptors." Grumet declared that "we have a bigger problem in information and democracy than we do in innovation and technology." Banks affirmed: "Humanity has proven its ability to innovate."

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE DAVID BANKS ON "LINKEDIN"

George David Banks is a senior fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and a Republican political analyst. He also worked in the White House during the George W. Bush and Donald J. Trump administrations.

EDITORIAL

November 9, 2023

Dear Hamilton Community,

We know this upcoming week is a tough one, and we wish everybody the best of luck in getting through it. One more push until we can relax and gorge on some turkey and pumpkin pie.

The on-campus production *Concord Floral*, directed by Emily K. Harrison, has opened its doors. Performances are Nov. 8-11 at 7:30 pm and Nov. 11 at 2:00 pm, in Romano Theatre in KTSA. The reviews are glowing! Make sure you catch a performance before it closes! You can buy your tickets online—only $4 for students.

The Latin Ball is taking place this weekend on Saturday, Nov. 11 in the Event Barn from 9-12 p.m. The Yodapez improv group has a performance coming up soon as well. Catch the show in the chapel on Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. If you are already craving Thanksgiving food and festivities, you can head on over to the FYE Friendsgiving meal at the DMC house on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 5 p.m. and get some soul food! If you need a break from studying, the intro to sculpture class has made a collaborative group sculpture which is being unveiled on Thursday, Nov. 9 in the KTSA Oculus at 6 p.m. Students and faculty are welcome to join the class in its unveiling.

As always, if you are looking to join *The Spectator* team as a Staff Writer, Copy Editor, or Photographer email us at spec@hamilton.edu. We are also still looking for a Marketing Director to engage with the local community and nearby businesses to assist in our Advertisements section.

Our podcasts are here! *Search History* is hosted by Stella O'Brien '24 and Hannah Jablons '24, where our hosts dive into the quirky corners of their curious minds. The *Arts & Entertainment* podcast, hosted by Max Bratter '25 and Allen Underwood '25, spotlights up-and-coming artists and comments on today's music scene. Check out the QR codes below to listen!

Sincerely,
The Spectator

Search History Podcast:

Our A&E Podcast:

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Celebrating 157 years,
we *were first published as* The Hamilton Campus *in 1866*.

The Spectator

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

November 9, 2023

Wynn hospital opens in downtown Utica

by Ava Cargan '27
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Wynn Hospital in downtown Utica has officially been completed through a $300 million grant from the New York State Department of Health's Health Care Facility Transformation Program. The new hospital is 702,000 square feet with ten floors, 373 beds and a helipad near the emergency entrance for air transport. The new hospital includes eight coronary care beds, 42 intensive care beds, 23 maternity beds, 232 medical/surgical beds, 8 neonatal intermediate care beds, 16 pediatric beds and 44 psychiatric care beds. The emergency department will include 47 emergency treatment spaces and six behavioral treatment areas.

Commenting on the new hospital, Governor Kathy Hochul said that "This is an exciting day for the people of Utica and the region as we mark the next step forward in modern, accessible health care coverage for this community. The state-of-the-art facility is an investment in the well-being of the region and will ensure that every resident has access to critical medical services when they need it most." This new hospital also provides care for Hamilton students who may need emergency medical attention.

Frank Coots, Director of Campus Safety, discussed the opening of the hospital and what it means for our community. Coots comments that when it comes to emergency situations on campus, he wants students to get care as quickly as possible and wants them in the least amount of discomfort, and that now Wynn is going to be a great place to go for students. On a usual week, several students a week will call Campus Safety and the campus EMTs for emergency care. In addition, Coots says there are usually more calls on the weekend, and that from this point on, Wynn is going to be where students are sent if they do not request otherwise, except for cases of sexual assault.

When calling an ambulance for students, the ambulance gets to decide where the student is taken. Requests for hospitals can be made, but it cannot be guaranteed that the ambulance could take the student to their requested location. In the case of sexual assault, students would be sent to one of the local hospitals that have a SANE nurse (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner). Rome City Hospital, Rome City Hospital and Oneida Health Hospital are all local hospitals with SANE nurses. Coots says that in addition to Campus Safety reaching out to get a student to a hospital with an available SANE nurse on call, the Title IX coordinator and campus investigator will also be involved. If students are assaulted, there are resources to reach out to for help, such as the health center, Catherine Berryman or by calling 1-800-656-4673 for the National Sexual Assault Hotline).

PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE GREENBERG '25
Utica residents enter the new hospital.

Coots believes that there is a safe on-campus community with access to quality medical care. Coots says that Campus Safety takes injuries and emergency situations on campus very seriously and wants to get students the best care possible. He says that on-campus EMTs are a great service for students; they are a certified emergency service that can make determinations for students' care and will give solid and respectful care for students. He beleives Wynn Hospital is a great new space to maintain the care of all students.

The Levitt Center discusses technology and artificial intelligence at Public Philosophy talks

by Mia Antonini '26
STAFF WRITER

Since Fall 2022, the Arthur Levitt Center for Public Affairs has offered its current version of the Public Philosophy discussion group, "with the aim of providing a relatively informal space for Hamilton Community members…to discuss philosophical ideas and how they relate to social dynamics and issues," as Zack Schuman, Assistant Director of Community-Based Learning at the Levitt Centertold *The Spectator*.

In forming each of these sessions, which all take place in the Levitt Center Conference Room, Levitt Media Fellow Simon Stanco chooses articles to guide the conversations. Compared to seasons past where "discrete topic[s]" were selected for each meeting, this fall has aimed to center on "philosophical thinking around technology, especially on how it changes our relationship with meaning," says Schuman. Many such articles have been drawn from the American Philosophical Association's blog, though other forms of media including a Byung-Chul Han—philosopher and cultural theorist—interview and "The Question Concerning Technology," an essay by Martin Heidegger. Throughout the technological theme, the Public Philosophy program has touched on topics including "filmic depictions of AI and the influence on how they think about consciousness, technologies like ChatGPT and their ramifications for aesthetic meaning and smartphones and meaningfulness," says Schuman.

Looking ahead to the next semester, the program hopes to invite speakers from within the Hamilton community and beyond to discuss societal issues and relationships.

However, the Public Philosophy discussions are not the only way for community members to get involved with the Public Philosophy sphere, as the discussion series makes up only a component of the Public Philosophy Initiative, a combined endeavor from the Levitt Center and the Philosophy Department at Hamilton. The Initiative is vast and offers a range of activities and events for students to be a part of including "conferences on Food, Justice, Aesthetics and Morality organized by Professor Alex Plakias, a human rights trip to Ireland led by Professors Justin Clark and Ashley Gorham, The Community Conversations Project led by Professor Alma Lowry and *Book XI*, a journal of literature and philosophy, edited by Professor Marianne Janack and Hamilton College students," says Schuman.

There is one more session remaining in the semester for students interested in attending. It will take place on Dec. 6 at 4:00 p.m. and is titled, "Smartphones and Meaningfulness." The session will be held in the Levitt Center Conference Room (with Clinton Cider Mill refreshments).

November 9, 2023

With the assistance of new staff members, Sadove Student Activities hosts an open house

by Catherine Vogt '24
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, Nov. 3 from 12-3 p.m., Sadove Student Center hosted an open house to showcase the plethora of organizations that are housed in the building. The open house comes following the hiring of three new staff professionals: Ariel Adams, Director of Student Activities; Nadiyah Roberts-Green, Assistant Director of Student Activities for Leadership; and Rey Benschop, Associate Director of Student Activities for Engagement.

Adams stated that "the Sadove Open House started off as an opportunity for students to stop by the Student Activities office to see the physical changes to the space whilst learning more about the resources we offer to all students. Additionally, the Student Activities Office has all new staff who are eager to engage with students and the campus community to make Sadove and our programming welcoming and inclusive for all."

At the open house, students were able to pick up a passport to be stamped at each organization's table. The organizations on display were the Student Activities Team, Campus Activities Board (CAB), Student Government Alliance (SGA), Euphoria Coffee, the Hamilton College Bookstore, the Sadove Programming Team, the Media Board, WHCL and First Year Experience. Organizations had the opportunity to discuss their work and role on campus to students as well as hand out candy and merchandise. Once students received stamps from all tables, they were submitted into a raffle for three self-care gift baskets.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Following a travel theme, students were encouraged to use passports throughout the event.

Lilah Hamill '25, CAB Co-Chair, said that "I think it was successful and a unique idea. Students with their Sadove passports came to our table all the way on the third floor, and plenty of students were very excited about learning about CAB, particularly possible artists to bring to campus in the future. As a freshman, I remember not really knowing much about CAB and not even really knowing what C&C day was or stood for, so I think this event was very useful for sharing that information with students and giving people events to look forward to!"

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to respect discretion, *The Spectator* and Campus Safety have not disclosed the idenities of the students involved in these reports.

Fri., Nov. 3

10:40 a.m. Motorist Assist—Parking Lots: Visitor/Little Pub

Sat., Nov. 4

4:49 a.m. Trouble Alarm—South Campus

8:55 a.m. Medical Emergency—Commons Dining Facility

12:52 p.m. Medical Emergency—Steuben Field

5:56 p.m. Fire Alarm—100 College Hill Road

Sun., Nov. 5

1:35 a.m. Medical Emergency—Ferguson House

12:31 p.m. Medical Emergency—Eels House

2:51 p.m. Complaint—On Campus Other Location

5:39 p.m. Assist—Alumni Gym

10:35 p.m. Suspicious Activity—Kennedy Arts Center

Mon., Nov. 6

12:40 a.m. Concern for Welfare—Kennedy Arts Center

3:45 a.m. Trouble Alarm—McEwen Dining Hall

8:51 a.m. Area Check—College Hill Road

5:35 p.m. Area Check—North Campus

7:10 p.m. Trouble Alarm–Dunham Residence Hall

10:50 p.m. Trouble Alarm—Babbitt Residence Hall

Tues., Nov. 7

12:24 a.m. Concern for Welfare—Babbitt Residence Hall

2:17 a.m. Trouble Alarm—McEwen Dining Hall

7:53 a.m. Trouble Alarm—Sage Ice Rink

9:57 a.m. Medical Emergency—Taylor Science Center

7:15 p.m. Medical Emergency—Kirkland Residence Hall

7:02 p.m. Medical Emergency—Glenview A

November 9, 2023

French 307: All Aboard The French Train! takes trip to Schenectady, New York

by Gregoire Winston '26
OPINION EDITOR

This past weekend, Professor Martine Guyot-Bender and her students took part in a day-long trip to Schenectady as part of their class's experiential learning component. French and Francophone Studies 307: All Aboard The French Train! takes the study of this pioneering mode of transportation to a new level. Through the use of various social, political, economic and historical lenses, students have the opportunity to explore the impacts of the French railway system. Although taught in French, the scope of the class goes further than that of the French mainland, weaving in the importance of trains within former French colonies and 19th century American expansionism. From the train's technological prowess to its risks as a metaphorical weapon—without forgetting the potential for sociability and its architectural heritage—Guyot-Bender's deep dive into the world of railroads reaches far beyond the classroom. Through this trip, students were able to make real-world connections with class material and enjoy discovering the quaint city of Schenectady, NY.

Departing Hamilton at 10:00 a.m., Professor Guyot-Bender and her students boarded an Amtrak train leaving Utica. A former Dutch and French town, Schenectady was home to the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad, the first chartered railroad built in the state of New York and the first of its kind on a national scale. Founded in 1831, the railroad significantly cut passengers' travel time from Albany to Schenectady to a one-hour long trip, bypassing a 24 hour-long voyage using the Erie Canal. Given its significance to history and the class, Schenectady was the ideal destination for this experiential learning experience.

While on the hour and fifteen minute ride, students were advised to keep in mind several key points pertinent to class material, including the station's architecture and its geographical location, the train's speed, the outside world perceived from within and various sounds emitted by the train. The combination of sensory experiences and thoughtful reflection gave students the chance to draw connections between the experience of an American train and those studied in France. Once they arrived at their destination, the class explored Schenectady's historic district, strolling through its quiet downtown streets. Among its many consequent historical landmarks, the district holds a multitude of antique row houses built over two centuries ago which especially drew admiration from the class. Prof. Guyot-Bender and her students then made their way to the Mohawk River, known to be the largest tributary of the Hudson River, and runs parallel to the Schenectady train line. Following this, the class stopped in front of St. George's Church, the oldest religious building in Schenectady, built in 1759. Before heading back to the station, the class enjoyed snacks and refreshments inside the Moon and River Café, a small Schenectady-based coffee shop that provided a chance to chat with the shopkeeper and learn more about the city. Before boarding, Prof. Guyot-Bender made sure to take a picture in front of the station's main facade as a souvenir of this successful trip.

Last month, Guyot-Bender and her students also traveled to Utica where they had class inside the train station with the help of Hamilton guest lecturer and Utica native, Phil Bean. A specialist of Utica's railroad history, Bean explained the significance of railroads during the 19th century and its place within society nowadays. Further, since Bean's close family was involved with the railroad industry for several decades, his unique perspective was very much welcome. Looking into the future, French 307 will also have the pleasure of welcoming several guest speakers from France over Zoom, who will be able to discuss the place passenger trains hold within their local communities. Throughout these diverse immersive experiences, Prof. Guyot-Bender and her class expand their horizons, develop their analytical skills and enrich their understanding of the railways system within France and beyond.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREGOIRE WINSTON '26

Winston's '26 French 307: All Aboard The French Train! class pose in front of the Schenectady train station.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREGOIRE WINSTON '26

The class excitedly waits to embark on their trip to Schenectady (a former Dutch and French town).

Club Spotlight: Dance Team

by Erin Merenich '26
STAFF WRITER

The Hamilton College Dance Team, currently composed of 15 members, performs in contemporary and jazz styles at sporting events and at the Students Dance Alliance (SDA) Fall and Spring Student Choreography Show.

The Dance Team provides a supportive space to learn, practice and perform dance in a group setting regardless of whether members have extensive or limited dance experience before arriving at Hamilton. For some members, Dance Team is their first time encountering contemporary and jazz styles of dance. Erin Delaney '26 notes that before joining Dance Team she "had really only done ballet before." Delaney found the unfamiliar environment rewarding, asserting, "It is fun to dance with girls from all different dance backgrounds and learn different styles of dance." The establishment of a collaborative space is fostered by long-standing team traditions. Captain Kelly McElroy '24 reveals that "every year, we have one group timeout which the team collaborates on together." This tradition allows all members the opportunity to practice choreographing and display their individual talent.

Dance Team members express love of their own art form while simultaneously supporting Hamilton's football and basketball teams. Captain Sophie Antone '24 notes that "performing at sporting events is really exciting and a cool way to incorporate what we do into the Hamilton community." The Dance Team's commitment to performing was displayed during this year's Family Weekend when they decided to dance in the rain. As McElroy '24 puts it, "The show must go on!" On Saturday, Nov. 4, as the last home football game of the season commenced, the Dance Team excitedly awaited their final performance of their 2023 halftime dance, choreographed by captains Antone '24 and McElroy '24. Before taking the field, the dancers stood in a huddle giving each other words of encouragement.

When speaking to several dancers on the team, it is evident that a meaningful aspect of being on Dance Team is the strong bond between members. When asked what her favorite part of being on Dance Team was, Elise Mizerak '25 answered, "The community that I found. I found my closest friends on Dance Team. We're all bonded by our passion for dance. I think it's really special to do what you love with people who you love." Similarly, McElroy '24 notes that "the friendships I've built with the other members have been super important to me." Seemingly, Dance Team is more than a club, but also a community.

If you are interested in watching Dance Team perform, come to Blood 101 on Nov. 10 and 11 for the Fall Student Dance Choreography Show. Furthermore, all students are invited to try out for Dance Team during auditions held at the beginning of each school year. Keep a look out for open practices offered during various times of the year to experience a Dance Team practice.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN MERENICH '26

The Hamilton Dance Team club huddle on the football field before their performance.

Weekly Unsolicited

by Candidus
RESIDENT VOICE OF WISDOM

The "Weekly Unsolicited" features advice that no one asked for, but everyone needs.

1. Want to save $4 and not buy a 16 oz. black iced coffee from Euphoria? Want to waste at least thirty minutes of your life? Then heed my perfect system for making free iced coffee (forget the fact that you technically paid for it in your meal plan) in Mcewen! Step 1: get the coffee. I am a fan of Road Trip over Original Fogbuster because the original makes my tummy hurt. Anyway, put that in a disposable white cup and get the lid in advance. Step 2: let the coffee rest and cool down to room temperature (keep the lid off). For all my cold girlies, I recommend holding the coffee in your hands to warm up. Give it like 15-20 minutes. Step 3: get a reusable cup and put some ice in it. Pour your coffee into the cup of ice. It will not all fit so take a few sips of the slowly-chilling coffee. Wait until all the ice has melted before proceeding to the next step. Step 4: put ice into the disposable cup and then pour the coffee into that. This time, the ice will not melt, and you will have actual iced coffee. Boom.
2. Drinking can cause memory loss, or even worse, memory loss.
3. If you can not concentrate, listen to the 11-hour ADHD soundtrack on YouTube. So good. Also the Pomodoro cat videos are so cute and really helpful.
4. Planning to buy bedding for when you go abroad and can not carry an entire duvet with you? Upsize all sheets and duvets! It will feel so much more comfortable.
5. Speaking of bedding, if you want to remember something before bed, put a note about it on your pillow.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMERANT

November 9, 2023

this week in The Spectator history

HAMILTON COLLEGE

Vol. I; No. 4 CLINTON, NEW YORK October 24, 1947

Robbery and Desertion Startle College

Four Houses Raided Tuesday Night; Investigation Underway

During the early morning of October 21, sneak thieves visited four fraternity houses on College Hill, and escaped with about $205.00 in cash. Similar robberies have been reported at Syracuse and Colgate Universities.

The thieves visited the Chi Psi, Psi U., Deke and Sig houses sometime between the hours of 4.00 and 5:30 a. m. They left behind a trail of scattered clothing and billfolds.

At the Chi Psi Lodge, James Benjamin reported that four out of six study rooms were entered and around $80.00 stolen. He recalled that the same type of robbery occured on the Hill about this time last year.

Anthony Kuolt said that $20 50 was taken from the Psi Upsilon house and that four rooms were entered. All the searched rooms are located near the stair well, except one, which is four doors down the hall from the stairs. Elsie Hoffman, wife of the house cook, heard someone walking around in the house when she was awakened by the restlessness of her child, but dismissed it as one of the members. Kuolt mentioned that all the emptied billfolds were found near the doors to the rooms and added that this was probably done to look at the contents of the billfolds by the hall light.

The heaviest loss, $105.00, was reported by William Southorpe at the Deke house, where six rooms and a dormitory were entered. Vanderbilt Ward, who was lying in bed, almost apprehended the thief when he opened the door of the dormitory, but unfortunately it was too dark to distinguish the person.

At the Sig House, the looter entered four rooms, scattered clothing and billfolds, but found no money or valuables.

Two detectives from the New York State Police are working on the case. After a conference with representatives from three robbed houses, the detectives took a celluloid case from

(Continued on Page 4)

Man of the Week

Bruce Davis

Described last fall as "a scampering ad of what vitamins are supposed to do for John Q. Public, who all but knocked himself out as one of the 'happy thyroids' on the cheerleader squad for this year's mercurial football season"

Class of '49 Bolts This A. M.; New Tradition Seen For College

At 9:45 this morning, the class of '49 perpetuated a tradition inaugurated by another class of '49, — 1849. Specially designated bell-ringers started the second **Bolt of '49** when, at the appointed hour, they roused fellow juniors from their mid-morning lethargy. "The gay, young Juniors" rose as one man, filed past astounded faculty and assembled in front of the library. When the class had gathered, the men, led by Class President Phillips C. Brooks Jr., marched in a body to Clinton.

As with their predecessors of the previous century, the student action was reported to have been totally unpremeditated. An undefinable quality in the October air caused a silent rapport to be established among the class-mates. No need for verbal communication was necessary; the Juniors merely responded to a common urge.

No information is now available concerning the future plans of the '49 ers. Present indications seem to point to a probable return in time for this afternoon's Hamilton-Rochester football game. Reports that have spasmodically filtered up from Clinton indicate that the merry-making Juniors will be invaluable assets to the team's vocal support.

Apparently this century's class of '49 is physically less hardy than their antecedents, or maybe merely their objectives differ. At any rate the rebels made no attempt to reach Trenton Falls. Certain attractions in Clinton proved fatal to their wanderlust and the pilgrimage stopped in town.

One Junior was overheard saying that the challenge, —"Has a century of Hamilton manhood changed so that we are no longer proud of this heritage?"— published in last week's issue of **The Spectator** may have had some bearing on thegroup's

(Continued on Page 4)

Charlatans To Offer

Rochester Heavy

Important Campus Security Alert: Recent Larceny Incidents Reported Inbox ×

Wayne Gentile <wgentile@hamilton.edu> Fri, Oct 20, 12:48 PM

to all-Hamilton

Dear Campus Community,

We would like to bring to your attention a recent increase in larcenies on campus. The safety and security of our campus community are of utmost importance, and we all play a vital role in maintaining it.

In recent weeks, there have been reports of thefts from unattended and unsecured items, such as backpacks, laptops, and personal belongings in common areas, specifically in and around the athletic complexes. At this time, there have been no reports of larcenies from residence halls but this does not eliminate the potential if we do not remain vigilant. We want to take this opportunity to remind everyone to be proactive in safeguarding their possessions.

Here are some essential tips to prevent larcenies and protect your belongings:

1. **Never Leave Items Unattended**: Please do not leave your belongings unattended, even for a brief moment. It only takes a few seconds for an opportunity thief to strike.

2. **Secure Valuables**: Lock your doors and windows when leaving your residence. If you have a lockable drawer or container, use it to secure valuable items.

"This Week in Hamilton History" is a new and quick column featuring some of the front page news in *Spectator* history. Unlike "Into the Hamilton Archives," this column does not analyze these pages but rather offers them as an interesting contrast to current times. While it is November already, this front page from October 24, 1947 reminded me of the larceny emails sent recently. Hope you enjoy!

November 9, 2023

How much do Western governments care about Palestinian lives in Gaza?

by Stephen Kelly '24
STAFF WRITER

As I did with my last article, let me clearly state that Hamas's terror attacks against Israel on Oct. 7 were heinous and a war crime. Anyone who uses the attacks and the ensuing war as justification for anti-Semitism, Islamophobia or any form of hate is deeply troubled.

Israel has the absolute right to defend itself. Any sovereign nation does. I have never and will never question that. What I do question is how Israel goes about defending itself. The killing of civilians should be avoided at all costs, but, as with war, it will happen. While we cannot prevent this, it is possible to minimize it. During dozens of interviews with activists and officials from both sides of the conflict, many journalists and interviewers, such as Piers Morgan, have raised the question of what a proportional response is. Some, like The Young Turks' Ana Kasparian and former Navy SEAL Jocko Willink, have called for special forces to be activated and sent into Gaza to strike Hamas targets. Others, like in my previous article, call for Israel to turn Gaza into a "tent city" with no buildings, or to flatten it into a parking garage. I have already written at length why this is a dangerous language that can lead to genocide. We have seen it happen in the past and it is currently happening in other parts of the world.

We hear of Hamas using civilians as human shields and it would be unethical to say that statement is false. The issue with this point is that we all know that Hamas is in the tunnels they have built under Gaza. Israeli Defense Force (IDF) spokespersons and the United States and other Western countries have acknowledged this. Acknowledging this is crucial for my next point. With Hamas operating from their network of tunnels, what purpose does bombing residential neighborhoods and, most recently, an ambulance convoy serve? While the IDF warns before striking with lethal munitions, we must accept reality. According to the United Nations, "more than 80% of its [Gaza's] population lives in poverty…with an unemployment rate of 47%." How are people with no way out supposed to leave? The elderly cannot evacuate, and families with children or family members in the hospital cannot leave. A population of 1.1 million people cannot evacuate in 24 hours. Even in the United States, evacuations before a natural disaster result in traffic jams the length of interstates. Now try asking that of impoverished people with little to no recourse.

On Oct. 30, the Israeli military ordered the evacuation of the Al-Quds Hospital in Northern Gaza. The very same day, this order was reinforced with Israeli missiles striking targets within 200 feet of the hospital. Now, this was not an empty hospital. It was filled with approximately 400 patients and hospital staff. There were also thousands of Palestinian refugees packed inside seeking refuge. While we still do not know who is responsible for the bombing of the Al-Ahli Hospital, I will attribute blame to no one. For a nation that claims to not target civilians, its strikes in these neighborhoods have been devastating. On Nov. 1, the IDF bombed the Jabalia refugee camp for the second straight day to eliminate a Hamas commander. The IDF has yet to present evidence that he was there, but Palestinians who lived in this camp are still pulling their mothers, fathers, siblings and children from the rubble. According to a Reuters report, "at least 195 Palestinians were killed" in these twin attacks with "some 120 still missing under the rubble and at least 777 more…wounded." Palestinian civilians have felt the brunt of this conflict. Between 2008 and 2020, Palestinian civilians have accounted for 95.7 percent of all casualties. So far, Palestinian civilians continue to be the victims of this decades-long conflict. These 5,590 Palestinians were not human shields, but they will continue to be portrayed as such. It removes any agency from the IDF and places these deaths solely in the hands of Hamas. That is not how war works.

In the Western coverage of the war, there has been a clear distinction on the value of human life. The simple use of "died" instead of "killed" speaks volumes when "killed" is used almost exclusively for Israeli civilian casualties but "died" for Palestinian civilians. Just like the Israeli victims of the Hamas terror attack were killed by Hamas, the Palestinian victims of the war have been killed by Israel. In a CNN article from Oct. 25, 2023, writers refer to Israeli victims as being "killed," while those who have lost their lives in Gaza as a "death toll." If this isn't convincing, in the next sentence, the writers say that "at least 35 UN workers have also been killed." It is time we humanize Palestinians. Palestinians are not barbarians or Nazis or children of the darkness. Arabs are not dirty or primitive or criminal. This is textbook Islamophobia and must be condemned in the strongest terms just like I suggest we do with anti-Semitism or any other form of hate. Hate must not be accepted even within the confines of war. Civilians should not be held responsible for the actions of their government. Palestinians are not responsible for the actions of Hamas, an illegitimate government that has not seen an election since 2006. Israelis are not responsible for the actions of their government. We need not attack one another because we identify as Jewish or Muslim, Israeli or Palestinian. The conflation between the people and their religion and the people and their government must end, or we will see another Rwanda or Cambodia or Bosnia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Recent fighting between the Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza has led to significant casualties and devastation.

November 9, 2023

Top five flags ranked by aesthetic

by William Rampe ’24
OPINION EDITOR

While countries primarily use their flags to depict parts of their history and culture from which they derive pride, making these flags aesthetically appealing is equally important. This dual mandate makes creating a flag difficult, leading to countries choosing to emphasize history over aesthetics. Australia and New Zealand, two former colonies of Great Britain, serve as examples of the problem with choosing history over aesthetics; both would be better off if they ditched the Union Jack and went with new designs based on their current color schemes. While doing a ranking of flags based on their history would require a strenuous amount of research, which my professors have ensured I do not have time for, ranking country flags based on aesthetics simply requires Google and my impeccable ability to judge. Without further ado, here are my top five country flags based only on aesthetics:

5. Panama

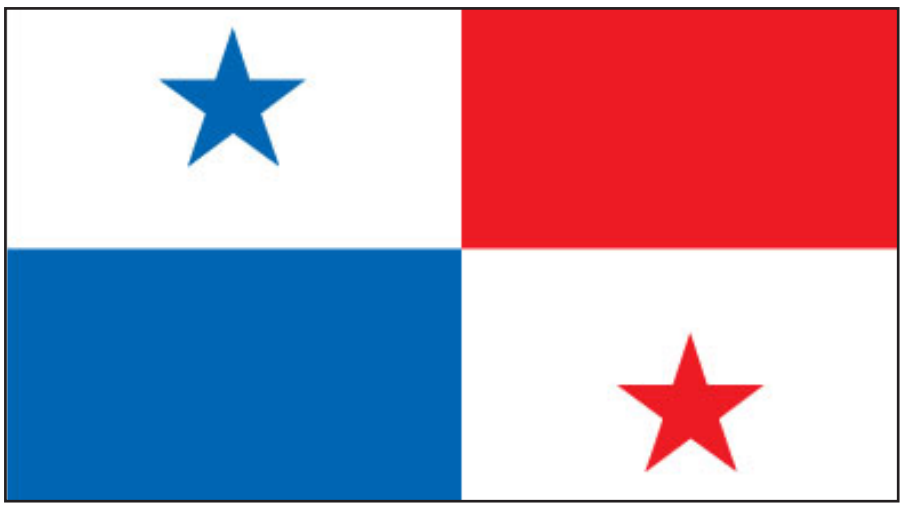

PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLDOMETERS

Nobody has ever gone wrong by using simple geometry and a blue and red color scheme. The Panamanian flag is austere and formidable, with straight lines and contrasting blue and red on either side that gives a sense of comforting dualism. The use of stars on the white background gives the flag a sense of importance as if Panama acts as a proud and benevolent nation on the world stage. Panama displays the magic that can be done with a simple design.

4. Namibia

PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLDOMETERS

Namibia gets the stripe right. Similarly to Panama, its color scheme is inviting, especially the use of green and the bright yellow sun making it resemble a landscape. The red stripe fits in the corners well and provides the flag with a level of sternness that contrasts sharply with the cool green and blue sides.

3. North Macedonia

PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLDOMETERS

For a country whose name harkens back to the legacy of Alexander the Great, this flag is especially appropriate. I know I said I would not talk about history, but it is too easy with this one. The flag has a regal feel to it due to the symmetrical yellow stripes surrounding the central circle, with the red background only adding to this effect. North Macedonia’s flag resembles its geographic position, a beacon of light in the center of the Balkans (this is not a political statement) and puts forth aspirations for greatness.

2. Seychelles

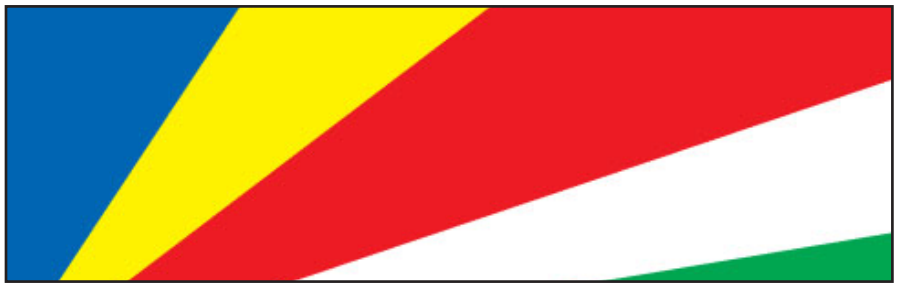

PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLDOMETERS

I like rainbows; do you like rainbows? You should. Seychelles uses a simple concept but takes it far with its diagonally receding lines of white and four colors. This design gives off feelings of peace and tranquility, making me feel as if I want to take a vacation to Seychelles. How could a country with this beautiful of a flag do anything wrong?

1. South Africa

PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLDOMETERS

South Africa’s flag has long been a favorite of mine, especially given the substantial scale of improvement from the apartheid era flag (look it up; it is almost as terrible as apartheid). The black triangle outlined in yellow gives a sense of renewal while the large green stripe gives a sense of movement, as if South Africa is looking towards the future. The South African flag exemplifies everything you want from a nation, a pro-progress vision with an eye towards the people’s well being, which can be seen in the red and blue that appears to move along with the green stripe. It is too bad that the current state does not live up to its flag’s promises.

So here are my rankings. I encourage you to read this list and come to your own conclusions, although this is now more difficult due to the inexplicable absence of flags from Commons for about two years now.

November 9, 2023

Dorms as new and upcoming film and TV

By Lily Rizzoli '24
Managing Editor

Titles Available Now:

Photo courtesy of IMBD.com

Quiz Lady
Aquifina, Sandra Oh, Will Ferrell
Film
Comedy
Hulu
Director: Jessica Yu
Two estranged sisters are forced to reunite and go on an adventure together in order to help pay off their mother's outstanding gambling debts and save a kidnapped dog.

Photo courtesy of Vox.com

Five Nights At Freddy's
Josh Hutcherson, Elizabeth Lail
Film
Horror
Peacock
Director: Emma Tammi
A young man in need of some money reluctantly agrees to take a job as a security officer at the local family entertainment joint. Why such a place would need a night guard is horrifyingly revealed when he starts the job. Based on a viral video game.

Photo courtesy of Observer.com

Killers of the Flower Moon
Leonardo DiCaprio, Lily Gladstone, Robert De Niro
Film
Crime Drama
Theatres
In Scorsese's newest film, Mollie Burkhart fights to save her community as many members of the Osage Nation are murdered for oil. The terror of these serial murders is known as the Reign of Terror in Indigenous communities. Based on a true story and adapted from David Grann's book *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI.*

Photo courtesy of hollywoodreporter.com

All the Light We Cannot See
Mark Ruffalo, Hugh Laurie, Aria Mia Loberti
Series
Historical
Netflix
A young blind French girl navigates love, loss, and a changed world during the Second World War and develops an unlikely friendship with a German soldier. Based on the best-selling novel by Anthony Doerr.

Photo courtesy of apple.com

Lessons in Chemistry
Bri Larson, Lewis Pullman
Series
Drama/Romance
Apple + (Weekly)
Elizabeth Zott, who wants to be a famous scientist, is denied by the societal expectations of women in the 1950s. Since she cannot become a scientist, she decides to take a position on a cooking show meant for an audience of housewives, but plans to sneak in as much science as she possibly can. At the same time, she may even find the recipe for love. Based on the best-selling novel by Bonnie Garmus.

Photo courtesy of paramountplus.com

Lawmen: Bass Reaves
David Oyelowo, Lauren E. Banks, Dennis Quaid
Series
Historical Drama
Paramount+
A new Western series. The show centers on protagonist Bass Reaves, one of the first Black Deputy U.S. Marshals, a job which he got in part due to his ability to speak native languages. Reaves ultimately had a very successful career as a U.S. Marshal. The show comes from the same creator as *Yellowstone*, Taylor Sheridan.

Upcoming Titles

Photo courtesy of IMBD.com

The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes
Hunter Schafer, Rachel Zegler, Tom Blyth
Film
Historical
November 17, 2023
A Hunger Games film which centers around the future president of Panem, John Snow, as an 18-year-old boy during the 10th games.

Photo courtesy of netflix.com

The Crown: Season 6 Part 1
Elizabeth Debicki, Dominic West, Imelda Staunton
Series
Historical Drama
November 16, 2023
The long-anticipated "Diana Season" of the infamous historical drama about the English monarchy. The season will focus on the marriage of Princess Diana and King Charles (then Prince Charles), throughout the 1990s and early 2000s.

Photo courtesy of IMBD.com

Napoleon
Joaquin Phoenix, Vanessa Kirby
Film
Action/Adventure
November 22, 2023
An adventure film following the rise and fall of Napolean as Emperor, and his deep and somewhat obsessive love of his wife Josephine.

Broad City's true power of female friendship

by Bryna Jekogian '25
STAFF WRITER

Female friendship has always been an essential pillar of my life, but the power of these friendships is often neglected and understated in popular media. Whether we acknowledge it or not, the TV shows and movies we watch teach us how to act, what to value and what to aspire to. I've seen endless depictions of heterosexual relationships, medium-sized friend groups and families in media, but there are few examples that I can identify in media that portray the beauty of a friendship between two women. The TV show *Broad City* breaks this barrier. Through its five seasons on air, the show showcases the intimate, empathetic and devoted best-friendship shared by Ilana and Abbi.

The sitcom follows two female characters who are based off of, and portrayed by, its creators, Ilana Glazer and Abbi Jacobson. Their show teaches viewers that female friendships can and should provide a deep source of fulfillment. Viewers are grabbed in by the eccentric humor of the two women and a few side characters, but I believe many fans stayed devoted to the show because they are moved by the power of friendship that the show works to depict. When I first came across *Broad City*, I felt connected to Ilana and Abbi because they shared my dedication to deepening and maintaining female friendships.

The creators approach the depiction of female friendship in a way that contrasts their TV-writing predecessors. The two women in the show do not constantly compete with each other for the attention of others, specifically men, like women do in other shows such as *Sex and the City*. Instead, Ilana and Abbi support each other unconditionally. The unequivocal acceptance they share for one another is part of the reasoning behind their relationship's strength, as well as why they derive such joy and support from one another. Because they provide one another with love, companionship and meaning, the two rarely search for other sources of meaning in their romantic relationships or from their careers. Although people in the real world should aim to have multiple sources of happiness, I believe that the creative choice to have Ilana and Abbi primarily focus on their relationship throughout the series is what makes the show so novel and powerful.

Broad City first aired in 2014. At this time, there were almost no other shows that centered on female friendship. Popular shows such as *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia, Friends* and *How I Met Your Mother* focus on a group of friends, most of them men. These shows, while funny and heartwarming, often fail to explore the depth of platonic relationships because they feature multiple people, so there is little time to zoom in on interpersonal friendships. Additionally, the characters have goals that are not exclusive to nurturing their friendships with one another. Since Ilana's and Abbi's sole focus is on their relationship, each episode acts as a 20 minute portrayal of female connection.

Similarly to any other sitcom, each episode finds the starring characters in comedic situations. In "Lost and Found," Ilana and Abbi chase a Holocaust survivor around New York City after they aid in his escape from his senior living facility. In "B&B-NYC," they attempt to spend the night sleeping in a tent on the rooftop of Ilana's building after both women rent out their apartments to Airbnb customers. These episodes, along with all others, include hilarious banter between the women with the people they encounter through their adventures. Within this dialogue, the audience learns life lessons.

The women laugh through their misfortunes and do not let the other get down on herself. Through wacky one-liners, Ilana constantly uplifts Abbi. A running gag in the show is Ilana's continual compliments about Abbi's butt. She tells how beautiful her butt is, telling Abbi she has the "ass of an ageless angel." Ilana says, "I know your ass better than I know your face." These lines are written for their comedic value, but also for the sake of showing the viewer that the women will support anything that the other one does, even if the act in question is as asinine as having a good butt. Ilana's quips do not come off as exaggerated or even as simple jokes. She truly believes that Abbi is the most wonderful person on earth and that she has a fantastic butt worth admiring. The womens' interactions with each other feel completely natural and their incredibly close friendship feels genuine.

The authentic feel of the show is somewhat due to the fact that Ilana and Abbi were real-life best friends before they began writing the show. They had years of practice laughing and unconditionally supporting each other. It is heartwarming to watch a real relationship play out on the screen; I can feel the platonic love that they share. Their friendship inspires me to cherish, nurture, and prioritize my relationships with other women. For this lesson, I am grateful to the women of *Broad City*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VOX

***Broad City* is executive produced by *Saturday Night Live* legend Amy Poehler.**

My November Noise Playlist

By Lily Rizzoli '24
A&E Editor

People misunderstand Scorpio season...it sounds like this.

This Feeling
Alabama Shakes

01:20 - 03:30

Sea Gets Hotter
Durand Jones & The Indications

01:20 - 03:30

I'll Be Around
The Spinners

01:20 - 03:30

Then You Can Tell Me Goodbye
Bettye Swann

01:20 - 03:30

Lift Me Up
Rihanna

01:20 - 03:30

The Wonder Of You
Vilagers

01:20 - 03:30

Victim of Love
Charles Bradley, Menahan Street Band

01:20 - 03:30

Cartoon People
Billie Marten

01:20 - 03:30

My Love Mine All Mine
Mitski

01:20 - 03:30

Don't Wanna Fight
Alabama Shakes

01:20 - 03:30

Why the NBA's rest policy has failed so far

by Pat Cleary '24
STAFF WRITER

This offseason, NBA owners came together with the players union (NBPA) to ink a new collective bargaining agreement, which will keep the league open through the 2029-2030 season. NBA commissioner Adam Silver sought to cure an epidemic plaguing the modern NBA: the tendency of star players to sit out games to heal from or prevent injuries. The league argues that "load management," particularly in nationally televised games, hurts the standing of the sport with fans and league partners. Opponents feel that rest is simply a symptom of an overlong NBA season that has become increasingly taxing as the pace of play has increased in recent years. With nine-figure contracts being handed out, often to players over the age of 30, it makes sense for players to "pick their spots."

This summer, Adam Silver set out the rules. At least one star (defined as having made an All-Star or all-NBA team in the past three years) must suit up and play. Star players must be made available for National TV and in-season tournament games. A player must appear in at least 65 games for 20 minutes to be eligible for All-NBA teams and end of season awards (and a supermax contract thereby). Additionally, while team physicians still decide if a player is healthy enough to play, the league holds the right to investigate a player's state via independent medical personnel.

All in all, although a bit complex, the new policy should ensure that we have more big players playing in big games. With a new media rights deal on the way, the NBA wants to do everything it can to spruce up its product. Will this work? Probably not.

The problem is that the new policy has created a space where there is some rest that is worse than others. There is "bad rest" that is punished and "good rest" that is not. Reigning MVP Joel Embiid nearly sat out the Philadelphia 76ers' home debut this past Sunday and he's not alone. Devin Booker, Bradley Beal and Jimmy Butler all sat out games in the opening week after playing in the preseason that same month. They were able to do so because of exceptions built into the rules. Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant played, leaving Beal and Booker off the hook. Miami's Bam Adebayo played, allowing Butler to sit out in Minnesota.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ESPN

Adam Silver, NBA commissioner, may have to take more emphatic action on rest policy.

The policy takes aim at surface-level concerns (lost TV ratings and broadcaster relations) rather than the root cause of the issue: there is an injury crisis in the NBA. Players come into the league younger, with grueling Amateur Athletic Union schedules at the youth level. For American players, at least, it leaves many already broken physically before stepping on an NBA floor. With fewer years of college experience, players are more frail and less capable of withstanding the physical nature of NBA play.

Players are making more money than ever, so it makes sense to manage a player's rest to avoid the kinds of devastating injuries that can cost a player a season or more. Take Jamal Murray. After tearing his ACL in April 2021, Murray missed the rest of that season and all of the next one. While Murray did help the Nuggets to a first championship his first season back in 2022-2023, his team effectively lost two years of contention with its star guard absent. Additionally, because of Murray's contract, the Nuggets had spent over $30 million for Murray to wear street clothes.

Keep in mind, this is the best outcome. Denver got their ring. The LA Clippers have spent far more on forward Kawhi Leonard to not play and still hold an empty trophy cabinet. It is these kinds of risks that make rest such a popular option. So if the new policy is doomed to fail, why did Silver take such a small step?

Since becoming NBA Commissioner in 2014, Silver has prided himself as a partner with the NBPA. He has shied away from the controversial, almost dictatorial reign of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. Silver led the ouster of racist former Clippers owner Donald Sterling, allowed players to freely use marijuana and instituted a court that featured the Black Lives Matter message during the 2020 bubble. This partnership has allowed Silver to preside over 15 years of labor peace since becoming commissioner once the current CBA expires. In a league that has gone through a pandemic, economic uncertainty and the most powerful players of any sport, that is quite a feat.

At the end of the day, Silver is still the NBA's boss. Severe fines, stripping of draft picks, shortening the season and reducing the number of playoff spots could all potentially solve this problem. The problem is that each would put Silver in hot water with broadcasters, sponsors, players, owners, or other key stakeholders. These moves would be unpopular but might just be more needed than ever. Roger Goodell has never cared about his own popularity and it has enabled him to steer the NFL through some pretty dark waters. So long as Silver refuses to do something controversial, this will continue to plague the NBA.

Hamilton Continentals sports roundup

by Owen Lewis ’24
SPORTS EDITOR

As the final leaves fall from the trees and snow starts to appear, fall sports are wrapping up and indoor and winter sports are starting to get into swing. Enjoy your last few days at Hamilton before Thanksgiving break by catching a basketball game in the Alumni Gym or cheering on the cross country team as they approach their championship race in Houghton. With work building before the break, enjoying a game with your friends could be the perfect way to take a break and relax while supporting your friends and peers. Here is *The Spectator*’s rundown of the upcoming games and meets.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOPHIA SANTANA '26

Ezra Lombardi ’24 makes a catch en route to a Continentals loss last week.

Women’s basketball

The women’s basketball team finished last season 12-11, with five wins and five losses in the conference. Their season opener is against Utica on Nov. 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Alumni gym. They will play again at home, against SUNY Morrisville at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 14, and then again at SUNY Oneonta for the Oneonta & Hartwick Classic on Nov. 18.

Men’s basketball

The men’s team is coming off a very successful previous season, when they went 20-9 and 7-3 in their conference. Their first game of the season is on Nov. 14 against Ithaca at home at 7:30 p.m. On Nov. 18, they will compete in the Hamilton Men’s Basketball Invitational against Vermont State Lyndon and Neumann University.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Hockey season is about to start again!

Swimming and Diving

The swimming seasons will kick off with a joint meet at home against Colby and Trinity Colleges on Nov. 17 at 11:00 a.m. Last season, the men’s team had one win and nine losses, while the women’s team had four wins and six losses.

Squash

Men’s and women’s squash will be competing in their season opener at Vassar at 5:00 p.m. on Nov. 17. Last season, the women’s team had six wins and ten losses and the men’s team were 4-11.

Hockey

The women’s ice hockey team will begin their season on Nov. 18. They play at 4:00 p.m. at home against Amherst (and then again the following day at 3:00 p.m.). The men’s team opens the season on Nov. 17 against Amherst at 7:00 p.m. Show up to the Russell Sage Rink to show your support!

Football

The football team, currently at two wins and six losses, is wrapping up their season and will play their final game of the season against Bates on Nov. 12. The game will take place on Steuben Field at noon.

Cross country

The men’s and women’s cross country teams will be competing in the NCAA Niagara Regional Championship on Nov. 11 to round out their seasons. The men’s race is at 11:00 a.m. and the women’s race follows soon after at 12:15 p.m.

Other news

Luke Peplowski ’25 was selected for the NESCAC All-Conference men’s soccer team following his six-goal, five-assist season, the second time he has received the distinction.

Lilly Truchon ’26 was selected for the All-Conference field hockey team. She scored five goals this season, four against opponents in the conference, and started every game this season.

Erin Rayhill ’25 was selected for the All-Conference hockey team after scoring four goals and recording four assists this season.

The volleyball team’s season ended with a four-set loss to Bowdoin in the first round of the NESCAC Championships.